

25th ID Soldiers conclude tour of duty in Afghanistan



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Combined Task Force Thunder leads other units participating in the Great Aloha Run Jan. 30 at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

By Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
CTF Thunder Public Affairs
Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - After a year in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Combined Task Force Thunder are preparing to redeploy to Hawaii.

The headquarters is currently conducting a relief in place with 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, and will relinquish control of eastern Afghanistan during a transfer of authority ceremony scheduled for June 1.

Initially, the headquarters

wasn't even slated to deploy. While nearly the entire 25th Infantry Division (Light) received deployment orders to either Iraq or Afghanistan in late 2003, HHB was left out.

That changed when a decision was made to stand up a new brigade in Afghanistan, and Division Artillery was tabbed as the headquarters. More than 100 people from the headquarters deployed to Afghanistan last June, and since then, it has run one of the largest and most diverse commands in Afghanistan.

For the last year, CTF Thunder oversaw Regional Command East, which cov-

ers 16 provinces in eastern Afghanistan along the country's border with Pakistan.

The task force included infantry battalions from the active duty Army, Marine Corps and Army National Guard. It also included eight provincial reconstruction teams, with a ninth currently being started.

Sgt. Roger Amposta, a fire direction specialist for CTF Thunder, is one of the Soldiers who will be returning in the beginning of June after a year in Afghanistan.

The 26-year-old native of Cavite in the Philippines spent the deployment work-

Inside



Mechanics battle Afghan landscape
Page 3



3/3 Marines help Tora Bora Afghans
Page 4



Medic's helping hands
Page 10

See "Thunder" page 6

Opinion & Commentary

Page 2

June 4, 2005

Thank a Renegade Lately?

By 1st Lt. Kristin Burt
Logistics Task Force 191

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan- The 26th Quartermaster Company has had a busy four months on Forward Operating Base Salerno. Soldiers who have taken a hot shower in the past month should thank a Renegade. Enjoyed coffee at the Green Bean in the last four months? Thank a Renegade. Soldiers who have had clothes laundered, ate at the Dining Facility, not worrying about the safety of a Jingle truck coming onto the FOB, should thank a Renegade.

The company, lead by the command team of Cpt. Kristopher Pabotoy and 1SG Amy Hendricks, arrived on the FOB in mid-January. They hit the ground running and haven't stopped since. Nine

slung load missions, 1.2 million gallons of fuel, 4.5 million gallons of processed water, eight mortuary affairs missions, 1382 more Supply Support Activity Line Item Numbers, and 465 inspected Jingle trucks later they are leaving the FOB for the bright lights and big city of Bagram Air Field. Their commander is confident that the Soldiers will accomplish this new mission the same way they executed their mission at Salerno: effectively, efficiently, and asking for more.

"I have the best Soldiers in the whole Combined Joint Operations Area," said Pabotoy. "No complaints, no issues."

In addition to fulfilling their roles as the resident Quartermasters, the

Renegades also accepted and accomplished several vehicle recovery missions. The most notable recovery was the rescue of a 5-ton wrecker whose weight sunk the Jingle truck it was loaded on deep into mud outside the wire. With Pabotoy providing overwatch, his Soldiers safely recovered the wrecker and returned to the FOB to continue their duties.

As Salerno tenants stop at the Green Bean for a quick coffee, as they wash their hands before a meal, as they hear a fueled C130 taking off, as they see a Chinook fly away with a HMMWV swinging beneath it, they should ask the question: have you thanked a 26th Quartermaster Renegade today?



Courtesy Photos

Above, Soldiers from the 26th Quarter Master Company assist in a vehicle recovery mission. Left, Spc. Jason Kline, a mechanic with the 26th replaces the engine of a broken vehicle.

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To view back issues of the *Sentinel*, visit <http://www.-25idl.army.mil/sentinel/sentinel.htm>.

Be on the lookout for the *Desert Devil Dispatch*, Combined Task Force Devil's bi-weekly publication soon.

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Mechanics keep Task Force White Devil rolling

By Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke
Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan- The country of Afghanistan may seem like a four-wheel-drive enthusiast's dream. With its steep mountains, rocky terrain and shallow river beds, it is not hard to imagine a rugged truck rumbling over the Afghan countryside as a voiceover describes instant cash back rebates and low APR financing.

However, the toll taken on the Humvees used by the paratroopers of 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment during Operation Enduring Freedom would make one wonder about the warrantee instead of rebates and financing.

"I won't say the Humvee is a bad vehicle," said Sgt. Robert "Rocky" Clark, a native of Satesville, N.C. who is a mechanic with 2nd Bn. "It is just that the terrain is so rough out here."

Clark and the other mechanics of 2nd Bn.'s motor pool are tasked with repairing and maintaining the more than 150 vehicles used by the paratroopers of Task Force White Devil to conduct combat patrols, civic assistance, border security operations or any other mission needed.

The vehicles, which are mostly armored, were used by the previous unit to operate in eastern Afghanistan, Combined Task Force Thunder, and signed over to 2nd Bn.

"These trucks required a lot of work when they were signed over," Clark said.

Clark said when he and the other mechanics took over they worked for up to 16 hours a day on the vehicles to get them ready for missions.

"Some of (the trucks) looked like they had gone over a cliff," exclaimed Pfc. Douglas Poland, a Sherman, Texas, native and mechanic from the 307th Forward Support Battalion that supports 2nd Bn. "Almost



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Pfc. Douglas Poland, a mechanic from 307th Forward Support Battalion, fixes the troop seats of a Humvee May 27, at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Afghanistan. Poland has been helping to keep the vehicles of Combined Task Force Devil rolling.

like they had went on an airborne operation without parachutes."

Now the motor pool maintains a constant exchange with units that trade in broken vehicles for ones that have just been repaired, said Sgt. 1st Class Tony Howell, a Delisle, Miss., native and noncommissioned officer in charge of the 2nd Bn. motor pool.

Howell applauded his paratrooper's ability to take on the important mission of keeping the task force moving.

"These Soldiers will work all night long if they have to," Howell said. "They would complain if they were sitting around with nothing to do."

Not only are the mechanics of 2nd Bn. working hard at FOB Salerno, but each company in the task force is assigned a team of several paratroopers from the motor

pool to ride along with the infantry and conduct mid-operation repairs at a moment's notice.

"We believe that each company should have the maximum amount of support to complete the mission," Howell said.

With the mobility of the task force being such an important mission, Howell offered some tips for vehicle operators to keep their Humvees out of his motor pool.

"Following the daily (preventative maintenance check sheets) to the standard in the manual," Howell said.

Howell also recommended that operators clean the air filters and drain the fuel daily to help prevent clogs in the fuel injection system.

"These are small things that will make that truck run longer," Howell said.

Coalition, ANA, ANP, ABP, conduct patrols

Combined Forces Afghanistan
News Release

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - Over the past month, Afghan and Coalition troops continued to support the people of the Bermel Valley by providing security during reconstruction efforts.

Since early May, Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, alongside the

Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Patrol officers, have conducted patrols in the area, located roughly eight miles northwest of Shkin.

The remote region, part of Paktika province, falls under Combined Joint Task Force 76, Regional Command east. The local government is rebuilding a district center that insurgents destroyed in 2003.

"It is significant that the local people are working together," said Lt. Col. Michael Fenzel, Deputy Commander for RC-East. "There are three different tribes involved in the effort that were previously hostile to one another."

Through local police, Afghan and Coalition forces have secured the support of village leaders against insurgents operating in the area.

The security effort is a prime example of Afghan and Coalition troops working together to strengthen the local government, Fenzel said.

Coalition forces also funded the repair of four mosques in the area. School and roadways are also in need of repair, a priority concern voiced by village elders in "shuras" - tribal meetings held locally.

Marines reach out to Tora Bora region

By Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Rgt.

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Third Battalion, 3rd Marines, America's Battalion, conducted operations this week to eliminate any possible safe havens for Al-Qaeda and Associated Movements in and around the southern stretch of the Tora Bora Mountains.

Located along the Afghan-Pakistani border in the southern portion of Nangarhar Province, the Tora Bora Mountains became well known as a possible hiding place of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden after the attacks of September 11th. As insurgent attacks on Coalition and Afghan Forces have increased since the end of the Afghan winter, Coalition Joint Task Force 76 and America's Battalion entered the region to deliver humanitarian aid to villagers and determine if an insurgent force may be using the mountains' proximity to the Pakistan border as a staging point for attacks on Coalition and Afghan forces.

With the focus of operations in theatre firmly set on stability and security operations and the intent to legitimize the Afghan government and its forces, Celtics was the culmination of seven months of America's Battalion's, and the

Afghan National Army's efforts to build a cohesive relationship with the local population.

"This operation is about seizing key terrain from Al Qaeda and Associated Movements in southern Nangarhar Province," said 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Norm Cooling. "In a counter-insurgency, the key terrain isn't geographic, it's human. If the Afghan people know that we are here to help them, and that we provide the promise of a better, more secure and prosperous future, then they will deny our enemy support and safe haven."

As the first day of Celtics unfolded and America's Battalion closed with multiple objectives, the situation was similar in villages throughout the area of operations: Marines and Soldiers talked with the Afghan people in order to glean information about enemy movements and to counteract false information about the desecration of a Holy Koran at Guantanamo Bay, information Afghan authorities and Coalition Forces believe the AQAM exploited and turned into riots in the city of Jalalabad and Khogyani District a few weeks ago.

"My first words are of welcome to you," said Muhammad Ghaisa, a village elder in Tangi, a village in the Pachir Wa Agam District of Nangarhar Province.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Navy Corpsman, Petty Officer Jose Ordaya, listens to the breathing of an infant during medical assistance operations at a refugee camp outside of Jalalabad as part of Operation Celtics.

Ghaisa and a group of 15 mullahs, or religious leaders, and elders from other villages in the small, agrarian community gathered with Marines and Civil Affairs Soldiers early on the first morning of the Celtics mission. The riots and news of the Koran's alleged desecration were mentioned early, eliciting responses of support for the Coalition and relief that the allegations of desecration were false according to a recent investigation by the Department of Defense.

"I was angry at first, but I thought Americans would also be upset about such an honored book being desecrated," said Ghaisa. "The riots were not started by the people, it was started higher up," he continued, referring to his perception that the rioting was influenced by anti-government leaders. "Before we would get involved, we would ask 'who started this?' This is why we did not riot or protest."

Other local leaders echoed his opinion, "The people burned their own homes and even an office where at least six Korans were inside," added Malek Sayed Marjohn, an elder from Pachir, "How does that solve any problems?"

Once the elders' concerns were aired, conversation moved on to assistance the communities would like to have from the Army's Provincial Reconstruction Teams, such as schools, clinics and crop



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

While an Afghan National Army commander and village elder look on, Staff Sgt. Dennis Minton displays a box of tools donated to the village of Tangi in Pachi Wa Agam during Operation Celtics. Marines helped distribute over 38,000 pounds of humanitarian assistance during the operation and also provided medical assistance to local residents.

See "Marines" page 5

Marines

from page 4

irrigation products.

"We have stopped growing poppy in order to show our support of the government," said Ghaisa, "Many ANA Soldiers come from our villages as well. We would like more help from the government in replacing the earnings we have lost from the poppy."

Some help came in the form of 38,800 pounds of humanitarian assistance delivered in payloads from CH-47 helicopters, C-130 cargo transport planes and the traditional "jingle" trucks used to transport cargo throughout Afghanistan.

"The kits include tents, tarps, tool kits, blankets, cooking oils, rice and beans, and school supplies for the village children," said Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Worden, a Civil Affairs Soldier attached to America's Battalion.

As ANA Soldiers and Marines unloaded jingle trucks and offloaded pallets, the impact was immediately visible on the communities who crowded around the Marines and ANA.

"This is all about certain non-kinetic fires we can employ to influence our enemy and win the trust and confidence of the people both in us and in the ANA," said 2nd Lt. Erik Muniz, 1st platoon commander, Lima Company. "It's not about a direct exchange of information for food or medicine. It's about inciting reciprocity with these communities and building a relationship. Hospitality is a huge part of the Afghan culture and we're tapping into that in a positive way-

while we continue to fight those who don't want a stable or secure Afghanistan," he continued as villagers carried off the prayers mats and rugs his platoon had just unloaded.

Another facet of Celtics was the largest medical assistance operation staged by 3rd Bn. to date. Armed with enough medical supplies to treat over three thousand Afghans, the Navy Corpsmen, including the 3rd Bn. surgeon and a female Army medic, worked long hours in several locations including

villages near Pachir and a refugee camp outside of Jalalabad.

"Our enemy can only operate with the support of the people," concluded Cooling. "If we take away their ability to find safe havens and infiltrate the border regions, we will drive a stake through the heart of the insurgency in Afghanistan."

Marines of 3rd Bn. continue to conduct operations in eastern Afghanistan as it prepares for a relief in place with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines before redeploying to Hawaii next month



Cp. Rich Mattingly

Lance Corporal John Sims, Lima Co., 3/3 rifleman, looks on while Afghan National Army Sgt. Mohammed Agul waves the crowd back. The Marines and ANA worked together during Operation Celtics to distribute 38,800 pounds of civil assistance.

Memorial Day Remembrance...

Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Fields, a Soldier with 26th Quarter Master, sheds a couple of tears during the playing of taps at the Memorial Day observance in the Forward Operating Base Salerno Main Post Chapel May 30.



Thunder

from page 1

ing in the brigade headquarters at FOB Salerno. In addition to tracking the brigade's artillery assets, he's also helped to track air support.

Before deploying, Amposta was strictly artillery, but now can call for close air support. He said the whole deployment was a good learning experience, particularly when it came to doing things he hadn't done before and working with other units and services.

"Even though sometimes you might get into an argument, but when it comes to the job, people always come together," he said.

This was the first deployment for Amposta, who spent the previous two-plus years in Korea and volunteered to move to Hawaii so he could deploy.

"I was in Korea for two and a half years and I was ready to deploy, and I said, 'yeah, I'll go to Hawaii. It doesn't matter to me that they're deploying,'" he said.

Calling the deployment an "eye opener," Sgt. Allison Urbatsch, a human resource specialist for CTF

Thunder, said it taught her to be grateful for what she has.

The 23-year-old, Rock Springs, Wyo., native said one of the highlights of the deployment

was going out on five combat patrols with the infantry. During these patrols, she would guard and search Afghan females since the local culture prohibits male Soldiers from doing so.

"It was fun," she said. "It was a different world out there, different from staying at camp."

"We're excited to go home, but we're excited to finish the mission strong and hand the mission over to the 82nd better than we found it"

- Cpt. Eric Johnson

commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 25th Infantry Division Artillery



Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen

Col. Gary H. Cheek, commander of Combined Task Force Thunder (center), and Command Sgt. Maj. Edmund Murrell, CTF Thunder command sergeant major (right), walk with Capt. John Sego, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, and a member of the Afghan National Army on a foot patrol Nov. 5, 2004, in Sehla, Afghanistan, in Paktika Province.

Urbatsch said before deploying, she hoped she would get the opportunity to do something like that, but she never thought she actually would.

"Overall, I'm glad it's over with, but it was a good experience, and it made me realize we should be grateful for what we have," she said.

F o r Capt. Eric Johnson, commander of HHB, the deployment involved more than most. He

arrived in country on April 25, 2004, as the commander of Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, then became a brigade plans officer at CTF Thunder for three months before assuming command of HHB.

He spent a month in Ghazni, two months in Tarin Kowt, two months at Bagram Airfield and the rest of the

time at FOB Salerno.

Johnson, 31, and a native of Port Huron, Mich., said although it was an exciting year, he's ready to head back.

"As with anything that lasts this long, you're sad to see it end, but you're happy to see it over," he said. "We're excited to go home, but we're excited to finish the mission strong and hand the mission over to the 82nd better than we found it."

More than 5,500 25th ID(L) Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, including the division headquarters and 3rd Brigade, but DIVARTY remains the last division unit in the country.

For Urbatsch, watching the rest of her fellow Tropic Lightning Soldiers leave helped her to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It was nice to see them leaving because I knew it was a step in the right direction for us that we were on our way out too," she said.

Johnson said it's a special honor to be the last unit from the 25th ID in Afghanistan, especially considering the complexity of the mission it had to perform

here.

"This unit was notified late of its deployment after most of the division had either been deployed or was in the midst of deploying, and to bring it back after doing what we've done here is a great honor," he said.

After a year performing a unique role in Afghanistan, DIVARTY will soon reach the end of the road in more sense than one. The unit will be deactivated within weeks of returning to Hawaii.

As the 25th ID(L) moves toward a more deployable, brigade-centric unity, DIVARTY, along with the 25th Field Artillery Detachment and Battery F, 7th Field Artillery Regiment will be deactivated June 15 during a ceremony at Schofield Barracks.

"As is appropriate for an artillery unit, we're definitely going out with a big bang," Johnson said.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., took official command of RC East Monday and will continue to conduct operations in the area as Combined Task Force Devil.

'Blue' set for heart surgery in U.S.

By **Spc. Laura E. Griffin**
Assistant Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan - Perched on his bed in a crowded corner, Mohamad "Blue" Omer, 6, beams a broad smile up at his father, Fatih Mohamad, sitting next to him. Of course, this is nothing unusual for a 6-years-old boy to do, until you consider the blue lips that form the smile, or the blue gums that frame his still-intact baby teeth, or the little blue fingers that grasp playfully at his father's clothes.

Blue, as the staff at the 249th General Hospital at forward operating base Salerno, Afghanistan call him, has Tetralogy of Fallot, a combination of four heart defects that causes the oxygenated and deoxygenated blood in his heart to mix, giving him a bluish cast to his skin, called cyanosis.

Blue was first diagnosed with TOF about a year ago after having a "Tet spell," a condition where more blood gets diverted away from the lungs during times of high activity or agitation, while playing with his friends. Blue became very short of breath and turned bluer than normal.

"I took my son to a doctor in Ghazni,

Afghanistan," said Fatih. "When we found out, the whole family became very, very sad, especially his grandmother."

This condition can only be fixed by open heart surgery, which, for Blue, would mean a trip to Pakistan, where the surgery is extremely expensive, said Dr. Bashir Ahmadzai, one of three Afghan doctors working at the Forward Operating Base Salerno hospital.

Fatih said that working as a tractor driver and farmer in the small Afghan town of Mirokhill in the Paktika Province, he could not afford to send his son to Pakistan.

"Tetralogy of Fallot is the most common of cyanotic defects and is one of the easiest to repair," said Maj. Sloane Guy, a cardiothoracic surgeon with C-Detachment, 249th General Hospital at FOB Salerno. "Left untreated, Blue would be unlikely to survive through his fifteenth birthday. In America, most kids who have the operation go on to live normal, active lives."

Guy would do the operation himself, but the hospital in Salerno is just not equipped for open-heart surgery, he said. To perform the surgery, they would need, among other things, a heart-lung bypass machine and a perfusionist, the person who operates the

machine, neither of which is in Salerno, he explained.

"We came up with the idea of finding a surgeon and hospital back in the United States that would do his operation as part of a humanitarian effort," said Guy.

Through emails and phone calls to various hospitals and personal friends, Guy was able to find just what he was looking for.

Dr. Greg Deruso, a pediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr. Richard Jonas, a renowned congenital cardiac surgeon, and Dr. Gerald Martin, the chief of cardiology, all from Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., agreed to take the case pro bono with some provision for funding from the Larry King Cardiac Foundation. LKCF is an organization whose goal is to provide funding for individuals who, due to



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Mohamad "Blue" Omer has Tetralogy of Fallot, a combination of four heart defects causing the oxygenated and deoxygenated blood in his heart to mix, making him blue.

limited means and inadequate insurance, would be otherwise unable to receive life saving treatment.

Before they can go, Blue and his father must get visas. After their visas are approved, they will be flown to America for the surgery.

"I'm so glad to finally find a solution to this problem and am so grateful to the American government for offering to help," said Fatih, holding his son. "This is a huge gift to my life."

"Providing medical care is probably more strategically beneficial than all the bombs you could fill the country with," said Guy. "In the beginning of the war, this wasn't the case, but now this theater has matured enough for us to provide the medical care these people need."

For now, Fatih is staying with Dr. Bashir in Khowst, Afghanistan and comes to visit his son in the hospital every day. During his visits, he stays with Blue on his bed in the corner of the small hospital and waits for their trip to America.

Blue first arrived at the hospital in Salerno in mid March and has been there for most of the time since, said Guy.

"Despite his heart condition, Blue is always in good spirits and rarely complains," said Spc. Tara Miller, a health care specialist with the 249th who likes to take him for a walk at least twice a day. "He keeps things lively. Everybody here has a special place in their heart for him."



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Mohamad "Blue" Omer, 6, looks up at his father, Fatih Mohamad while they sit on Blue's bed in the 249th General Hospital at forward operating base Salerno, Afghanistan.

PRT improves school of Islam

By **Spc. Laura E. Griffin**
Assistant Editor

CAMP CHAPMAN, Afghanistan -- Small eyes peer curiously into the window of a carpet-covered room where Mullah Rasool Mohammad and members of the Khowst Provincial Reconstruction Team, along with some village elders, sit on cushions to discuss the future of Mohammad's Mando Zayi Madrassa in the Hassan Mohammad village in the Mandozi district of Afghanistan May 22.

Mohammad and Azhar u Din, the director of Haj in the Khowst Province, look over plans for the madrassa, or religious school, that Maj. Carl R. Hollister, the Khowst PRT commander, has brought for them to review.

The plans include, among other things, new doors and windows, ceiling fans and electrical outlets, none of which are currently in the madrassa.

"We want all of the students of Khowst Province to learn everything here and not in Pakistan so that they will not get a bad ideology," said Mohammad through an interpreter. "Once they graduate, they will be working and supporting their nation."

In order to keep those students in Khowst, the madrassa will need to have a lot of work



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Maj. Carl R. Hollister, Khowst PRT commander, discusses plans for refurbishing the Mando Zayi Madrassa in the Hassan Mohammad village in the Mandozi district of Afghanistan with its owner, Mullah Rasool Mohammad (center) and the Khowst Province Director of Haj, Azhar u Din. The goal of this project is to make the madrassa the best in the Khowst Province so that local families will not send their sons to madrassas in Pakistan where they are likely to be recruited by the Taliban.

done to it.

"The goal of refurbishing this madrassa is to make it the best madrassa in the Khowst Province," said Hollister.

Hollister's plan will require three stages of work to be done.

First, there will be the physical restoration of the madrassa, things like repairing the roof, installing plumbing and constructing a security wall and admittance gate. Damage to the building from a rocket attack last November will also be

repaired.

Next will come the classroom and administrative supplies, things like computers, projectors, whiteboards, desks and textbooks, all of which are commonplace in American schools but simply don't exist in the bare-walled and bare-floored rooms of the madrassa.

Finally, the madrassa will be given a resource center for Khowst Province clerics, an educational center for Khowst boys, a meeting center for the Council

of Mullahs, and a guard force of watchmen will be hired to protect the madrassa from further attacks.

"It will be a place that every Mullah in the province will go to draw on ancient documents, Qurans, and interpretations of the Quran which is really important," said Hollister. "It will take away the fundamentalists and jihadists and it will get true believers of true Islam."

Unfortunately, not every Mullah in Afghanistan that runs a madrassa is on the same path as the rest of the country with a better future ahead of them.

"Some of them want to maintain the 7th century paradise they've sustained for a while," said Hollister. "But the ones like Rasool Mohammad, who has been a friend of the new Afghanistan and a friend of the coalition, and who teaches a nonfundamentalist view of Islam; someone like that is someone who we need to be supporting."

Mohammad is the Deputy Mullah Shira of the Khowst Province, which means he's responsible for all of the Mullahs in the province. He is the one that people go to for spiritual reasons and definitions and interpretations of the Quran. It is hoped that the Mullah council

See "School" page 10

Log warriors head to Bagram

By **1st Lt. Kristin Burt**
Logistics Task Force 191

The transfer of authority ceremony from Logistics Task Force 191 to Logistics Task Force 307 on May 28th at Forward Operating Base Salerno marked the beginning of new missions for both units.

LTF 307 will take over the work of LTF 191 on FOB Salerno, and the 191 will move to Bagram Air Field.

In his speech, LTF 191 commander Lt. Col. Thomas J. Langowski told his Soldiers how proud he was of the work they've accomplished since arriving March 16.

"There is not a facet of logistics operations in Regional Command East that the LTF did not affect," he said, referring to the Task Force Soldiers' accomplishments.

In the last 90 days, the LTF deployed mechanics to 11 different nodes throughout the operations area and completed 600 jobs on FOB Salerno alone. The quartermaster element of the LTF, 26th QM, fell in on an immature supply and services structure and is leaving a developed system in its place.

The LTF's transportation element, 69th Trans, maintained operations at the FOB's entry control point and sent Soldiers and equipment out on patrol with paratroopers of the 2/504th. The "Firepower for Landpower" battalion lived up to their motto with the addition of 23rd Ordnance Company; the Soldiers' efforts resulted in an organized ammunition supply points throughout Afghanistan.

In addition to their prescribed mission,

the LTF Soldiers collected almost 2000 pairs of shoes and over 100 boxes of clothing and blankets for Operation Walk Tall, a community contribution program established by LTF 191 and handed down to LTF 307.

As the 191 prepares for the mission in Bagram with the same zeal that fueled their accomplishments in Salerno, Langowski is sure that his Soldiers will make a difference, wherever the mission takes them.

"I am confident that the work and sacrifices of Thunder, Devil, Renegades, Firepower for Landpower, and all the Soldiers in RC East will result in the emergence of a better world. I am confident that we will continue to bring honor to those great Soldiers who have given their lives in defense of freedom by ensuring that peace continues to endure in Afghanistan."

Muhmand Dara vocational school opens

**Combined Forces Command
Afghanistan News Release**

MUHMAND DARA, Afghanistan-- High school and Adult education arrived in Muhmand Dara in the dedication of a new school building. The peaceful dedication ceremony and quiet gathering of more than 350 Shinwari and Muhmand tribesmen and elders under the same green, yellow and red, floral patterned tents was a landmark event.

The presence of the governor of Nangarhar, sub-governor and provincial minister of education, added to the auspicious event.

Months ago when First Group entered the area, the two tribes were feuding. People randomly carried guns. The war-lord in the area trafficking drugs only fueled the distrust. The instability made schools let alone higher education difficult in this part of Afghanistan.

Located close to the border, Afghans walked over the boarder to Pakistan for a high school education. Afghans learned Pakistani ways counter-productive to Afghan nation building and anti-American ideology.

A plan to keep stability and plant a seed for the future was formulated.

And First Group began on a long and tedious road to build a school.

"By schooling the kids here in Afghanistan, not in Pakistan, we also remove the potential fight in the future," said the Commander.

The Commander then added, "If all we do is stop the war-lord and poppy growing, we will still leave the Afghans as beggars. That's not right, we must leave them with a way to earn a living."



Courtesy Photo

The ribbon cutting ceremony at a high school and adult education center in Muhmand Dara.

The original plan of a high school developed into an Education Center to help adults as well.

Another exciting part of building the center was funding by Afghan businessmen and leaders. Establishing a condition of overall security and mutual respect with the community was the start.

Criminal activity was quelled with arrests, as opposed to blood shed and gun play. There was always a show of force but with open communication and a chance for peaceful resolution. A developing rapport with local community elders brought the identification of local criminals. First Group ensured that the criminal activities were taken care of.

One-by-one, first near the operating base, then in neighboring towns, the bad guys were brought to justice and removed peacefully. Criminal activity diminished. One trouble-maker

was identified and captured by the villagers, then handed over to First Group. The local police looked upon First Group as an ally.

In the growing confidence between First Group and the community, the idea and need of a school was introduced.

More than 100 came to the first fund-raising gathering: government leaders and businessmen from as far away as the capitol city of Kabul, village elders and tribesmen from different tribes and villages.

Small donations were made and communities collected funds for the building.

The Peace and Freedom High School is actually an education center for high school age students and adults.

Plans were drawn and a company hired to build the school. The location would be geographically centered between the Muhmand and Shinwari tribes.

Letters from the Minister of Education were secured for this school to be an official government school.

With the completion of the building and the hiring of a principal, came the hiring of teachers.

The education plan was comprehensive. During the day a high school with core curriculum of

computer use, math, science and reading and writing. In the afternoon or concurrently as the school population allowed, adult vocational courses to include sewing, carpet weaving, electronics, mechanics and carpentry. Adults courses would also include reading and writing to increase the estimated 10% literacy in the area.

At the opening were displays of sewing machines, computers, mechanics tools and yarn making apparatus. For the younger students were the school bags, writing tablets, colors and writing instruments.

Governor Din Mohammad said that the need for education ranked as high as the need for food. He also thanked the Commander for bringing the building of the school to fruition.

The commander thanked the government officials for their support and especially the people who were present. He hoped that the presence of Muhmand and Shinwari elders and tribesmen here today would be sign of a future harmony.

"The school will be a place where students and adults from both tribes could be educated, and serve as a beacon of cooperation to others throughout the country," said the commander.



Courtesy Photo

Computer skills are part of the high school level education program at a Muhman Dara school.

FOB Salerno medics treat local Afghans

By **Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**
Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO- Afghanistan, Paratroopers from Company C, 307th Forward Support Battalion, conducted their first medical capabilities mission to help treat sick and injured Afghans at a hospital just outside Forward Operating Base Salerno May 31.

It was a busy week for the unit that recently took over support operations on FOB Salerno from Logistics Task Force 191 and deployed to Afghanistan as a part of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade

Combat Team just two weeks prior to conducting the mission.

Capt. Kevin Mahoney, Co. C commander, oversaw the operation that treated over 100 locals, some of which traveled more than two hours to reach the clinic.

Gulam Yousaf, a teacher from the province, was one of those that made the long journey to the base near Khowst to get medical answers for his wife and daughter.

His wife and daughter weren't nervous about coming to coalition forces for help because they knew they would be treated well and be seen by female doctors, said Yousaf. He also planned to encourage others he knows to take

However, sometimes getting answers on a medical condition was rewarding to the Afghans who were confused about what was happening to their bodies.

"Unfortunately we can't treat everything, but we can give them some advice and tell them where to go for further treatment," Mahoney said.

Afghans weren't the only ones to benefit from the medical capabilities mission, it offered a moral boost to the Paratroopers who participated, Mahoney said.

"This is a chance for the medical personnel to see a direct result in what they are doing for these people," Mahoney added.

Pfc. Andrew Page, a Santa Cruz, Calif., native and medic with Co. C, stood near the hospital exit handing out valuable tools in preventative medicine; toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Even while his comrades were able to be active in the treatment of the sick Afghans, Page didn't seem to mind his less glamorous duty of handing out dental hygiene supplies.

"We are doing a great job here," Page exclaimed. "We're just doing the most we can to help (the Afghans) out and I'm glad to be (in Afghanistan)."

Medical capabilities missions were a frequent part of LTF 191's operations in Afghanistan and Mahoney said that he and his paratroopers hope to continue these types of missions often during their tour.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Spc. Ryan Barrett, a Hamilton, Ohio, native and medic with 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, examines an Afghan during a medical capabilities mission May 31, at a hospital near Forward Operating Base Salerno. Over 100 Afghans were given treatment during the mission.

School from page 8

will replicate his madrassa throughout the rest of the Khowst province.

To Hollister, this is a very important investment in the future of Afghanistan.

"Either we support the good madrassas and the good Mullahs, or the villagers on the border area are going to continue to send their children to Pakistan to the madrassas that are the recruiting centers for the Taliban effort," said Hollister. "If we offer them something better here that fits in with the new Afghanistan, we can keep those people and hopefully save a generation from being poisoned with the fundamentalist, jihadist world view."

Construction on the madrassa is expected will start once the plans are finalized and the contractors to do the work are hired.



Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Students of the Mando Zayi Madrassa in the Mandozi district of Afghanistan.

Up Front & Centered: Set up to fail?

By Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
CTF Thunder Public Affairs Office

Is it the Boss or is it the Soldier's fault? When a soldier or employee fails at an assignment or just performs poorly, do we tend to think of it as more their fault than ours as a manager?

We may think that the soldier or employee doesn't understand the work or isn't driven to succeed, or can't set priorities, or won't take direction. But is that the case?

Sometimes the answer is yes because some soldiers or employees are not up to their assigned tasks, and never will be, for lack of knowledge, skill, or simple desire. This type of person might come from the career path of "promote up and out," but sometimes a soldier or an employee's poor performance can be blamed largely on the boss.

The Pygmalion effect describes a dynamic in which an individual lives up to great expectations, but there is also an opposite dynamic. The work of French researchers Jean-Francois Manzoni and Jean-Louis Barsoux explains this phenomenon as set-up-to-fail syndrome.

In this scenario, employees perceived to be mediocre or weak performers, live down to the low expectations their managers have for them.

How many of us as leaders can say

that when a soldier or an employee makes a mistake or loses a client, we take the obvious action step of increasing the time and attention focused on that employee?

Your intention is to help boost an employee's performance and help prevent them from making further errors. However, subordinates often interpret the heightened supervision as a lack of trust and confidence in them. This effect can escalate into employees doubting their own thought process and abilities if they perceive they are viewed with low expectations.

In an April 1998 article in the Harvard Business Review, Manzoni and Barsoux say that this is the point employees and in the Army's case soldiers, start to shut down and become defensive and they start devoting more energy into self-justification. Anticipating that they will be blamed for failures, they seek to find excuses early.

The set-up-to-fail syndrome is not irreversible. Personnel can break out of it, but it is difficult to do. First they must achieve a string of successes in order for their boss or leader to even contemplate revising their initial categorization.

This may take some time because of the boss's selective observation and recall, but it is not impossible if the subordinate has a special kind of courage, self-confidence, competence, and persistence to

break out of the syndrome.

Interrupting the set-up-to-fail syndrome requires that a manager or leader understand the dynamic and, particularly, that he or she accept the possibility that their own behavior may be contributing to a subordinate's underperformance.

Sometimes, in the past, we have all made the mistake of judging a book by its cover much too quickly. That is to say, we have made judgments on a soldier or an employee's ability based on one performance or incident and then thought of them in that light for some time after the event.

This is one behavior pattern we should all actively work on to correct. How about you? Is it about time to take another look in the mirror?

We want to hear from you

Are you an aspiring writer or photographer? We want to use your stories and photos in the Sentinel to highlight the great things the men and women of Regional Command-East are doing. For more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter at carterg@cjt76.centcom.mil.

ACM bombs Kandahar mosque

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 1, 2005 - Seventeen people were killed today when a suicide bomber reportedly linked to al Qaeda and the Taliban blew himself up in the Abdul Rub Akhundzadar Mosque in Kandahar province.

The attack occurred during a religious ceremony mourning the death of Mullah

Abdul Fiyaz, a respected cleric and supporter of the people of Afghanistan, U.S. officials reported.

Among the dead was the

police chief of the Afghan capital of Kabul. The governor of Kandahar and the Afghan National Police are investigating the incident, officials said.

"The coalition abhors this atrocious act of violence upon

"The coalition abhors this atrocious act of violence upon innocent civilians and a mosque."

- Col. Jim Yonts,
Combined Forces Command -
Afghanistan public affairs officer

innocent civilians and a mosque," said U.S. Army Col. Jim Yonts, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan public affairs officer. "Tragic events

such as this only solidify our resolve that we must eradicate terrorism now. The future of Afghanistan depends on it.

"The coalition offers our condolences to the family and friends of Mullah Fiyaz and to the families of those injured or killed in the explosion," Yonts said. "The coalition stands ready to provide civic assistance to the government of Afghanistan and the governor of Kandahar." In

other news from Afghanistan, coalition forces on May 31 medically evacuated a 5-year-old girl with a compound fracture in her right arm and a 20-year-old

male land-mine victim to medical facilities for treatment.

The young man suffered amputation of both legs below the knees when a land mine detonated near Deh Rahwod in Uruzgan province. He was evacuated to a medical facility in Tarin Kowt for the night, where he was stabilized. He was transferred to Bagram Air Base in Parvan province, about 27 miles north of Kabul, today for further treatment. The girl's arm was broken when she fell out of a moving truck near Forward Operating Base Naray in Kunar province. She was evacuated for treatment at Bagram Air Base, where she was reported to be in stable condition.

(Compiled from Combined Forces Command Afghanistan news releases.)

CTF Devil takes over Regional Command East

By **Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**
Editor

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan- The brigade colors of the 25th Infantry Division Artillery flew over Forward Operating Base Salerno for a final time during the transition of authority ceremony June 1.

The ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of Combined Task Force

Thunder and welcomed Combined Task Force Devil to Regional Command East, Afghanistan.

RC East encompasses more than 15 provinces and an area about the size of Vermont. The troops that operate in RC East conduct a variety of stability, security and civil military operations near the Afghan-Pakistan border.

During his farewell speech, Col. Gary H. Cheek, CTF Thunder commander, thanked the local Afghan governors and warriors for their support and commented that "The future is in the hands of the Afghan National Army and Afghan security forces."

"My greatest thanks goes to the Soldiers, Airmen, (noncommissioned officers) and officers of Thunder's Headquarters Battery," Cheek said.

He also offered words of encouragement to the Paratroopers of CTF Devil.

"I wish you the best, this is a great mission with many



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, left, Combined Task Force Devil command sergeant major, and Col. Patrick J. Donahue, right, unfurl the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, colors during a transfer of authority ceremony for Regional Command East June 1, at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

challenges and more rewards," Cheek said.

Col. Patrick J. Donahue then spoke about CTF Devil's mission in RC East and noted the improvements in Afghanistan that CTF Thunder had helped make possible.

"Afghanistan has improved dramatically in my two years away," he said.

Donahue previously commanded the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Kandahar Air Field in 2003.

"I have never seen a more integrated and thoughtful military operation as I have in this (area of operations)," Donahue concluded.

Combined Task Force Devil is expected to operate in RC East for one year.



Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke

Col. Patrick J. Donahue, commander of Combined Task Force Devil and RC East.

Rumsfeld reviews All Americans

By **Pfc. Curtis Squires**

49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne)

The U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld served as the reviewing officer for the 82nd Airborne Division Review Thursday.

"As America's long-standing strategic response force, the 82nd Airborne Division needs no lessons in agility," Rumsfeld said to the Paratroopers standing in formation at Pike Field.

"Since the attacks of September 11, a new generation of Paratroopers is writing its own chapter in this division's long and storied history," he said.

The 82nd continues to be on the cutting edge of today's transforming Army, Rumsfeld said. An army that is becoming more agile, innovative, and more lethal to its enemies.

"No fighting force in the world has done more to liberate people they have never met

than the United States Military," Rumsfeld said.

U.S. Forces can be proud of the legacy and the mission that service members have been entrusted with; as the American people are proud of the men and women serving this nation, he said.

"Gentlemen, it's an honor to be with you, to watch you march, to thank you, and to personally salute you for your service," Rumsfeld said.

Called to a mass formation by the 82nd Airborne Division Chief of Staff Col. Hazen Baron, the national colors, division colors and guidons formed in front of the reviewing stand where honors and awards were presented to Peterson and Brady.

The secretary of defense then spoke to the friends, family and veterans gathered for the occasion.

The legacy of the 82nd includes an episode that is rarely known outside of the airborne community, said Rumsfeld. On

September 17, 1944, Paratroopers jumped behind enemy lines into the Netherlands -- part of a mission called Operation Market Garden.

"They fought brilliantly and bravely with lightly armored Paratroopers holding off Nazi Panzers for days at a time," Rumsfeld said with pride.

Following Rumsfeld's speech, the Paratroopers, dressed in desert combat uniforms and maroon berets, marched by the reviewing committee and spectators gathered before them.

The pass and review also showcased the weapons, vehicles and aircraft used by the 82nd Airborne Division.

The 82nd Airborne Division Band closed the ceremony with the playing of the "All-American Soldier" and the "Army Song."

"I thank you. And I think your families for your service and for your sacrifice," Rumsfeld said. "And in the words of your motto: 'All the way - Airborne!'"